

Ever and how long

Hello and welcome back, in this lesson we will be exploring the uses of the word ever and the phrase how long.

Both of these expressions are very important to learn, you need to understand them if you want to form questions correctly in English.



Ever



The expression “**ever**” is used in questions and has the same meaning as “**up until now.**” Notice that the form we are using ever with is the present perfect form which is “have/has + the past participle form of the verb.”

Have you ever been to Japan?



The expression “ever” always goes between the subject and the main verb when asking a question.

Responding to the question:

When responding to a question in the present form we would reply:

Have you ever eaten octopus?



Yes, I have



And in the negative form we would say:

Have you ever been to Spain?



No I haven't or No, never . **X**

Remember that never is used only for negative statements or responses to questions and is positioned after the auxiliary verb “have” in the long form.

I have never been to Spain.



How long



The expression “how long” is used in questions to ask about the **duration** of something or to measure time. For example:

How long have you lived in Spain?



How long have you studied English?



Notice that again the expression “how long” is used with the present perfect form to show that the action is still true in the present moment.
How long have you lived in Spain?



Past?



However, the expression “how long” can also be used with the past simple form and the auxiliary verb “did” to find out about a past action or event which is finished.

How long **did** you live in Spain?
(you don't live there anymore)



How long **did** you study English?
(you don't study anymore)

